THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (REV. 3: 21).

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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE Eighty-fifth annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 4th, 5th and 6th of April, this year. The Salt Lake papers at hand state that the attendance was in all probability larger than at any previous conference in the history of the Church. The weather was bright and clear, after a storm on the 3rd, and the speakers were all enjoying the Spirit of God in abundant measure. During the Conference meetings the Tabernacle presented a fine appearance. A new floor had been laid, the ceiling had been calcimined, the benches painted and varnished, the pulpit renovated and the wood-work all through the house had been given a bright, new coat of coloring. The great organ was not in use, because during the process of renovating it had been necessary to maintain a temperature in the building that had an injurious effect on certain parts of the instrument, and it would be some time before it would be repaired.

On the stand in the Tabernacle were President Joseph F. Smith, President Anthon H. Lund, President Charles W. Penrose of the First Presidency; President Francis M. Lyman, Elders Heber J. Grant, Reed Smoot, George A. Smith, George F. Richards, Orson F. Whitney, David O. McKay, Anthony W. Ivins, Joseph F. Smith, Jr., and James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve (Elder Rudger Clawson presided over the meeting in the Assembly Hall); of the First Council of Seventies, Seymour B. Young, Brigham H. Roberts, Jonathan G. Kimball, Rulon S. Wells, Joseph W. McMurrin and Levi Edgar Young; Presiding Patriarch Hyrum G. Smith; of the Presiding Bishopric, Bishop Charles W. Nibley and Bishop David A. Smith. Among the mission presidents who sat in the first row of chairs below the stand were Joseph E. Robinson

of the Californian mission; Walter P. Monson of the Eastern States mission; German E. Ellsworth of the Northern States mission; Melvin J. Ballard of the Northwestern States mission; C. A. Callis of the Southern States mission; and John L. Herrick of the Western States mission. Two mission presidents, Samuel O. Bennion of the Central States mission, and Rey L. Pratt of the Mexican mission, were in the Assembly Hall, where overflow meetings were held.

Progress and Condition of the Church.

President Joseph F. Smith opened the conference with a very instructive and interesting address. After a few preliminary remarks, he said:

"Of course it is really unnecessary, perhaps, for me to repeat that which has been frequently said at the opening conferences of the Church, that there never has been a time, at least in my remembrance, when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was in a better condition spiritually, and I think I may properly add, temporally, than it is to-day. I do not believe that there has ever been a time when the organizations of the various quorums of the Priesthood were more perfect or more diligent than they are at present, or when the stakes of Zion were more properly guarded and their interests watched by those who are presiding over them than they are to-day. I believe that our general organizations of the Church, and the organizations of the Priesthood, are performing their duty quite as well now, and I rather think somewhat better, than at any previous period of the Church's history.

"Why should it not be so? We are not ever learning and never coming to a knowledge of the truth. On the contrary, we are ever learning and we are ever drawing nearer to a proper comprehension of the truth and of the duty and responsibility that devolves upon members of the Church who are called to responsible positions in it.

"Not only does this apply to those members who are called to act in responsible positions in the Church, but it applies to those who may be termed, if we can use such a term with reference to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, lay members of the Church.

"Who is there that under the circumstances that exist around us is not growing? Who is there of us that is not learning something day by day? Who is there of us that is not gaining experience as we pass along and as we are attending to the duties of members in the Church, and to the duties of citizens of our state and citizens of our great and glorious nation?

"It seems to me that it would be a very sad comment upon the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and her people to suppose for a moment that we are at a standstill, that we have ceased to grow, ceased to improve and to advance in the scale of intelli-

gence, in the scale of faithful performance of duty and in every condition in which we are placed as a people and as members of the Church of Christ.

"I am most happy, my brethren and sisters, to say to you that which you all know, that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at peace with itself, and it is at peace with all the world. We have no spirit of war in our hearts. We have been taught, and we have learned that it is a part of our duty, and a very important part of our duty, to abandon the spirit of strife and contention and of warfare, either among ourselves or against any portion of the children of men.

"We send out our elders to the nations of the earth, not to make war upon the religious organizations that exist, not to contend with them and to create strife and confusion and contention among the inhabitants of the world. The message that we have to bear to the children of men is the message of life, the message of peace, the message of salvation and of redemption from sin. Our elders are instructed here, and they are taught really from their childhood up, that they are not to go out to make war upon the religious organizations of the world when they are called to go out to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ; but to go and bear with them the message which has been given to the children of men through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph in this latter dispensation, whereby men may learn the truth if they will.

"They are sent out to offer the olive branch of peace to the children of men, to offer the knowledge to the world that God has spoken from the heavens once more to His children upon the earth; that God has in His mercy restored again to the world the fulness of the gospel of His only begotten Son in the flesh; that God has revealed and restored to the children of men the power and divine authority from Himself to man, whereby they are enabled and authorized to perform the ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ necessary for the salvation of the children of men; and their performance of these ordinances must of necessity be acceptable unto God, who has given to them the authority to perform these ordinances in His name.

"Our elders are sent out to preach repentance of sin; to preach righteousness to the children of men; to preach to the world the gospel of love, of fellowship and of friendship among mankind; to teach men and women to do that which is right in the sight of God and in the sight of and in the presence of all men; to teach them the fact that God has organized His Church; that is, a Church of which He, Himself, is the author and the founder—not Joseph Smith, not President Brigham Young, not the twelve apostles that have been chosen in this dispensation. It does not belong to them, the honor of establishing the Church to which we belong. God is its author; God is its founder; and we are sent out, and we send out our elders to make this proclamation to the world, and

leave it to their own judgment and discretion as to whether they will accept of it, investigate it, learn the truth for themselves, or whether they will reject it and abandon it, and we have no fault to find with them if they reject it.

"We do not make war upon them if they do not receive it; we do not contend with them if they fail to benefit themselves by receiving the message that we give to them for their own good. We only pity. Our sympathy goes out to those that will not receive the truth and that will not walk in the light when the light shines before them; not hatred, not enmity, not the spirit of condemnation; it is our duty to leave condemnation in the hands of Almighty God. He is the only real, true, righteous, impartial judge, and we leave judgment in His hands; and it is not our business to proclaim calamities, judgments and destruction and wrath of God upon men if they will not receive the truth.

"Let them read the word of God as it is recorded in the New Testament and in the Old Testament; and if they will receive it let them read the word that has been restored through the gift and power of God to Joseph the prophet, as contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, and in the Book of Mormon. Let them read these things and they will learn there themselves the threats that God has made to those that will not hearken when they hear the truth, but will close their ears against it, and their eyes against the light.

* * *

"Another great and important duty devolving upon this people is to teach their children from their very cradle until the day they become men and women every principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and endeavor as far as it lies in the power of the parents to instil into the hearts of their children a love for God and a love for the truth, a love for virtue, a love for honesty and for honor and integrity to everything that is good and right. That is an important thing for every man and woman who stands at the head of a family in the household of faith.

"Teach your children the love of God. Teach them the love of the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teach them the love of their fellow men, and especially the love of their fellow members in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that they may be true to their fellowship with the people of God. Teach them to honor the Priesthood, honor the rights and authority that God has revealed and bestowed upon His Church for the proper government of His Church. The house of God is a house of order and is not a house of confusion, and it could not be thus if there were not those who had authority to preside, to direct, to counsel, to lead in the affairs of the Church. The house would not be a house of order if it were not properly organized as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized. Take away the organization, take away the organization of the Church, from its least

branch to its highest; take away any of these or omit them, leave them out, disregard them, ignore them—and you start imperfection in the Church of God. And if we continue or would continue in this way we would find ourselves like those of old, being led by error and by superstition, perhaps by ignorance to a great extent, and by the cunning and craftiness of men, leaving out here a little and there a little, here a line and there a precept, until we would become like the rest of the world, disorganized, confused, without the knowledge, the real knowledge, that the Lord has restored in this dispensation to His children.

"Of course, it stands to reason and it is very necessary indeed that those who preside in the Church should learn thoroughly their duty. There is not a man holding any position of authority in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who can perform his duty as he should in any other spirit than in the spirit of fatherhood and brotherhood toward those over whom he presides. Those who have authority should not be rulers, they should not be dictators; they should not be arbitrary; they should gain the hearts, confidence and love of those over whom they preside, by kindness and love unfeigned, by gentleness of spirit, by persuasion, by an example that is above reproach and above the power of just criticism, and in this way, in the kindness of their heart, in their love for their people, they lead them in the path of righteousness and teach them the way of salvation, by saying to them both by precept and example: 'Follow me, as I follow our Head, the Redeemer of the world.'

"This is the duty of those who preside, the duty of members of the high councils of the Church, when they are called to act upon questions that are brought before them, involving the membership or standing of members of the Church. Their duty is to find out the truth, the facts, and then they should judge according to the truth and the facts that are brought to their understanding, always tempered with mercy, with love, and with kindness and with the spirit in their souls to save and not condemn and not cast out. Our mission is to save, not destroy; our mission is to build up, and not break down. Our mission in the earth is to convey the spirit of love and truth and peace and good will to the children of men throughout all the world: that war may cease; that strife may come to an end and that peace may prevail throughout all the length and breadth of the land.

"I thank God, my heavenly Father, as you do, every one of you present here to-day, and as do all the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I say we thank God that our land is at peace as much as it is. I am sorry that there should be any internal disruptions, internal divisions, or that the spirit of strife and of contention should exist at all in the various organizations of the people of our land. I am sorry that there should be strife. If they had the gospel of Jesus Christ they would not

have that strife; they would cease to harbor the feeling of contention and of strife; they would meet together, they would counsel, they would deliberate in the spirit of wisdom and of meekness and of humility, invoking the blessing and Spirit of Almighty God in their deliberations and counsels and then decide together upon that which would be for the common good and for the public weal, and then go as one man to do that which is necessary to be done to build up the nation and the country in which we dwell.

"I am glad that we have kept out of the war so far, and I hope and pray that we may not be under the necessity of sending our sons to war, or feeling as a nation the distress, the anguish and the sorrow that come from a condition such as exists upon the old continent. O God, have mercy upon Thy poor children in Europe, and throughout the world, who are brought under the awful conditions that exist there because of the ambition and pride of men and the claim of men to dictate, even to life or death, the welfare or the conduct of the people over whom they rule.

"My brethren and sisters, God is with you; the Lord is with this people; and if we will be His children in very deed, as He is in very deed our Father, I want to tell you that God will temper the elements for your good; He will bless you with health; He will bless you with abundance; He will bless the earth and make it fruitful. Those who reap their harvest by the toil and sweat of their brow from mother earth, will have bounteous harvests if they will only serve God in their hearts and in their outward life. I feel just as sure of this as I feel that I am standing before you here.

"Now, my brethren and sisters, I do not feel that really it would be to my advantage, nor necessarily to yours, for me to continue my remarks very much longer. I have no need, of course, to refer to my own feelings and my own condition, but I am so extremely human that I have not been devoid of the evidences of human weakness for some little time; but the Lord has been so merciful to me; God has blessed me in so many ways, and multiplied His favors and His mercies upon me to such an extent, that it would be shameful for me to complain even under the most afflictive conditions and circumstances in life. I love the truth. I love truth wherever I see it or find it. I love men and women who are virtuous and honorable. I would love a man, no matter who he is, with all my heart, if I knew and could realize at all that He was honest before God. He might differ with me in religious views and in many other ways, but is he honest with his fellow man and with his God? If he is, I honor him, and I love him for his honesty.

"When I think of our mothers, the mothers of our children, and realize that under the inspiration of the gospel with which they are imbued they live virtuous, pure, honorable lives, true to their husbands, true to their children, true to their convictions of the truth of the gospel, Oh, how my soul goes out in love for them—pure love; how noble and how God-given, how choice, how

desirable and how indispensable they are to the accomplishment of God's purposes and the fulfilment of His decrees.

"My brethren, can you help but treat your wives as the mothers of your children? Can you help treating them with love and kindness? Can you help trying to make their life as comfortable and as happy as possible, lightening their burdens to the utmost of your ability, making life pleasant for them and for their children in their duties and household labors? How can you help it, how can you? How can you help feeling an intense interest in the mothers of your children and in your children, how can you help it? If you possess the Spirit of God you could not do otherwise. It is only when men depart from the right spirit, when they digress from their duty, that they will neglect or dishonor any soul that is committed to their care. They are bound to honor their wives and their children.

"Men, intelligent men, men of business, men of affairs, men who are involved constantly in the labors of life, and in thought and reflection in connection with their labors and with their duties, if they have the Spirit of the Lord with them in the performance of their temporal duties they will never neglect the mothers of their children, nor their children.

"They will not fail to teach them the principles of life and set before them a proper example.

"Do not do anything yourselves of which you would have to say to your boy, 'Do not do it.'

"Live so that you can say to your children, to your sons, 'My son, do as I do. Follow me. Emulate my example.'

"That is the way fathers should live, every one of us; and it is a shame, it is a weakening, shameful thing, for any member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to pursue a course that he knows himself is not right and that he would rather, if he could only wield the power to accomplish it, that his own children should not pursue. What a shameful thing it is for a man to place upon himself an embargo, a handicap against doing his full duty to those that love him and to those whom he should love above his own life, by yielding to appetites that are wrong and to passions that are base, and doing things that he ought not to do and that he would fain keep his children from doing. Do your duty, my brethren, and the Lord will do His for you.

"We want Zion to grow and become strong in righteousness. We want the people of Zion to develop and grow and become strong in wisdom. We want you to cultivate the spirit of mercy, the spirit of charity and forgiveness. We want you to be generous to the poor; we desire that you will guard the helpless, the aged, and provide for them. God has made provision in His Church, in the vast and complete organization of it, that every soul that is a

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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1915.

EDITORIAL.

ELDERS, TAKE NOTICE.

ELDERS in the British mission are hereby reminded of the necessity of having passports, or some other document satisfactorily establishing their nationality. Those who have not already procured passports should do so, and those whose passports have expired should have them renewed without delay. This is absolutely necessary. The Home Secretary has recently called the attention of shipping companies to an Order passed in Council on April 13th, and which is in force from April 25th, according to which no alien can land, or embark, at any port in the United Kingdom, without the special permission of a Secretary of State,

"Unless he has in his possession a passport issued to him not more than two years previously by or on behalf of the Government of the country of which he is a subject or a citizen, or some other document satisfactorily establishing his nationality and identity, to which passport or document there must be attached a photograph of the alien to whom it relates."

It is imperative to comply with this Order. To the passport a photograph of the holder must be attached at the consulate. Whether, in case of a naturalized citizen, the Certificate of Naturalization would be considered a document satisfactorily establishing the nationality, in the absence of a passport, does not appear in the Order. To have a passport is to be on the safe side.

The companies carrying passengers request all friendly aliens booking in this Country to be provided with a passport not more than two years old, or other document satisfactorily establishing their nationality and identity, *to which passport or document must be attached a photograph of the alien to whom the documents relate.*

The elders, while here, should also see that they are properly registered according to the law and the rules of the respective authorities in the cities they visit. They should not neglect anything required of them by law and proper authority, and this applies to all the elders in the European mission, as well as in all the world.

HYRUM M. SMITH.

MINUTES OF LEEDS CONFERENCE.

THE Leeds semi-annual conference was held in Bradford, Sunday, April 18th, 1915. There were present: President Hyrum M. Smith of the European mission, and his son Joseph F. Smith; Elder Arthur L. Beeley of the Liverpool office; Elder Clarence Smith of Hull conference; Elders J. E. Neville and Aaron T. Pingree of the Nottingham conference; President Leonard B. Nielsen and fourteen traveling missionaries of the Leeds conference.

The morning session convened in Westgate New Hall, and commenced at 10 a.m. by singing, "The happy day has rolled on." Prayer was offered by Elder Arthur L. Beeley. Singing, "Behold the great Redeemer die."

President Leonard B. Nielsen welcomed those present and made a few brief remarks upon the sacrament.

The sacrament was administered by Elders W. Leslie Cocking and Verner O. Hewlett, assisted by Elders Clyde F. Hansen, Ralph Bishop, Earl S. Harper and William H. Hillyard.

Elder Elijah F. Spencer then addressed the meeting, declaring that revelation is as necessary to-day as it was at any time in the history of the world, for "God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Joseph Smith claimed to be a prophet of God. As evidence of the divinity of his work, he taught doctrines that are scriptural and which have not been, nor can they be, disproved. He received the gospel by the revelation of an angel, as was prophesied by John (Rev. 14: 6, 7); he also received authority to administer in the ordinances of the gospel. By his martyrdom he was proved to be a prophet of God.

Elder Elmer M. Savage rendered a sacred solo, "O love that will not let me go."

President Hyrum M. Smith was the next speaker. He said that the Lord's work was in every respect superior to that of man. The Church belongs to the Lord, and it has a perfect organization, because He was the organizer. The social status of the Latter-day Saints, he said, is the best in the world. It has produced a strong, virile people who are free from the vices of the world. As a result of their belief in the divinity of the marriage covenant, divorces are almost unknown among them; the birth rate is among the highest and the death rate among the lowest; saloons have been eliminated where the Latter-day Saints dominate; narcotics are not used, and as a result of these conditions they are producing a race of people best prepared to perpetuate their kind. The Latter-day Saints own their own homes and have advanced in temporal affairs, because they have listened to inspired teachings; it has always been better for mankind to obey God than man. Mankind receives blessings by obedience to law. The laws are faith, repentance, baptism by those authorized of God, and the reception of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. These

laws must be obeyed if mankind would be blessed, and obedience to all of His commandments is essential.

Singing, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet." Benediction by Elder Aaron T. Pingree.

The afternoon session was held in the Queen's Hall, Morley Road, Bradford, commencing at 2:30 p.m., by singing, "O ye mountains high." Prayer was offered by Elder Clyde F. Hansen. Singing, "O my Father."

President Nielsen made a few opening remarks, explaining that all the members of the Church had the privilege of voting upon the authorities of the Church.

Elder Cyrene N. Bagley presented the names of the Church and mission authorities, who were unanimously accepted.

Elder J. LeRoy Wright was the next speaker, and said that man must be obedient to the principles and laws of the gospel. Baptism is necessary because Christ taught it, and no authorized servant has been commanded to change that law.

Elder W. Leslie Cocking was the next speaker. He spoke of the efficacy of prayer in ancient and in modern times, and bore testimony that God lives and that He will bless those who keep His commandments.

Sister Ethel Walker sang, "Behold the dawn."

Elder Elmer M. Savage then spoke. He said that Christ organized a Church and ordained authorities. We have no record of any being ordained to succeed the apostles. Men usurped the authority and changed the ordinances. The gospel was then taken away from the earth, but the angel, seen of John, flying through the midst of heaven, has come to the earth and restored the gospel, and the elders are in all parts of the world bearing testimony of this.

Elder Arthur L. Beeley then addressed the congregation, saying that in the last days the Spirit of the Lord will be poured out upon all flesh. The Latter-day Saints are a chosen people to receive these blessings of the Spirit. Israel was a chosen people in ancient days, to convey a knowledge of God to future generations. The Latter-day Saints are chosen in these days and entrusted with the mission of giving men a knowledge of the relationship that should exist between God and man. They bear a message of repentance, saying that man must forsake sin and seek to conform his life to the Perfect Life. As a result of the outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord in the last days, Joseph Smith received revelations. If we are to know them by their fruits, Joseph Smith was not an impostor. One by one the objections to the divinity of his work fall to the ground, and the cause for prejudice and opposition are eliminated.

The meeting concluded by singing, "O, say, what is truth?" Benediction by Elder A. H. Peterson.

The evening session commenced at 6:30 in the Queen's Hall by

singing, "High on the mountain top." Prayer was offered by Elder Elijah F. Spencer. Singing, "The Spirit of God."

President Leonard B. Nielsen was the first speaker. He said that many people are inclined to get into ruts and live without reaching out for the blessings that are in store and can be obtained by every one who is willing to strive for them. Latter-day Saints have been commanded to observe the Word of Wisdom, and they should not remain in the rut they were in when they first heard the gospel. The Church of Christ being built on the principle of revelation may expect to receive continuous revelation. The means through which it is communicated is through visions and dreams, and through the medium of the Holy Ghost. The spirit of revelation is necessary in the Church to direct the officers in the performance of their duties.

Elder John J. Haslam was the next speaker. He said we should yield obedience to the authorities of the Church. Man can be saved by obedience to the principles and ordinances of the gospel, though all mankind will be raised from the grave through Christ's atoning sacrifice. Every man must walk in the light to receive salvation in the kingdom of heaven. Unto us is the gospel preached, and we should examine it and try to realize the blessings it confers upon us.

A sacred quartette was sung by Lawrence, Alfred, May and Florence Higgins.

President Hyrum M. Smith was the last speaker. He said he felt that the conference had been guided and directed by the Lord, for nothing but truth had been uttered. He admonished all to be faithful to these truths. The gospel is a free gift, but it must be obeyed. The Prophet Joseph Smith was obedient and bore testimony of the restoration, as Paul bore testimony of the resurrection. The chosen people of the Lord have been those who obeyed Him. Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses were chosen and blessed because they were obedient. The Hebrews rejected the Savior and refused to obey Him, hence they are not of the chosen people to-day, though they are a choice people. Belief alone is insufficient. Cornelius, after believing, was commanded to obey the laws of God. The Gentiles, by obedience, became a chosen people as Israel had been. The Lord is calling all His children, and each and all can become chosen if they will obey Him. The gospel is unto all mankind, and the Lord casts out no people that will come to Him, nor is it His pleasure to condemn any one. The present war is the result of the iniquity of the people. Those who are not blessed with revelation, nor the gifts of the Spirit, are not the Lord's chosen people because they have not obeyed Him. He that feareth God and worketh righteousness shall be saved, and shall be a chosen people.

Singing, "Sing we now at parting." Benediction by Elder William H. Hillyard.

A conference of the Relief Societies of the Leeds conference was held in Westgate New Hall, Saturday, April 17th, 1915, at 2:30 p.m. Reports were given of the work done by the Societies of the several branches, after which President Hyrum M. Smith addressed those present.

A profitable Priesthood meeting was held in Westgate New Hall, Saturday, April 17th, 1915, at 5 p.m. President Leonard B. Nielsen, Elder Arthur L. Beeley and President Hyrum M. Smith addressed the elders present.

CYRENE N. BAGLEY, Clerk of Conference.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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member of the Church may be looked after and nurtured and cared for in the hour of need. The trouble with us at present is that there are so many Latter-day Saints—that is, 'Mormons,' members, men that are holding membership in the Church—there are so many of them that neglect their duty in so many ways that we have not the means to provide as amply as we would like for the necessities of the poor. When you look, my brethren and sisters, upon a tithing record, a book of large dimensions, containing the names of members of the Church who do not pay their tithing, you do not need to wonder why the Church has not more means to provide for the poor. We are doing the best we can with the means we have. I am going to read you just a few little things that we are doing with your means that you consecrate to the Lord for the upbuilding of Zion.

"The general Church auditing committee has examined the receipts and disbursements of the tithes of the stakes of Zion and missions; also the accounts of the presiding bishop's office, and the accounts in the office of the trustee-in-trust. Their report will be rendered before the close of the conference, I suppose. The following report will show how the tithing of the Church for the year 1914 has been disbursed. Now I am taking a liberty that has not been indulged in very much; but there have been many false, wicked charges made against me and against my brethren by wicked and evilly-disposed people, and I think that this statement which I propose to make to you will at least have a tendency to convince you that we are trying to do our duty the best we know how.

"Means expended for the erection and maintenance of stake tabernacles, ward meeting houses, amusement halls and other stake and ward expenses for 1914, $730,960.

"For the maintenance of the Church schools during the same year, $330,984.

"For the maintenance of our temples, four, from St. George to Logan, $64,508.

"Disbursements in missions for the erection of mission houses, general mission activities, and for return fares of missionaries during 1914, $227,900.

"For the maintenance of Church buildings and the Church institutions, including the Temple block and the presiding bishop's office, $99,293.

"For the completion and maintenance of the Latter-day Saints' Hospital during that year, $136,727.

"To explain why this happens to be so much I may say that we have built a very beautiful and convenient addition to the old hospital, which has made this expense so much greater. One who knows, who has had experience and seen, says that the Latter-day Saints' Hospital, that is, the William H. Groves Latter-day Saints' Hospital, is one that would be a credit to any country in the world.

"For the erection of the Cardston temple, Canada, $52,647.

"For the erection of the new Church office building, which is in course of erection, already, $108,663.

"Paid to the worthy poor out of the general tithing funds, $116,238. (This is out of the tithing; there are other funds besides it that have been used for the poor).

"These appropriations and application of the tithing of the Latter-day Saints, or of the Church, amounts to $1,887,920 for the year 1914.

"Now some people have said, you know, as reported, that the tithes of the Church amount to millions every year, and Joseph F. Smith has absolute control of all these millions and never gives any account of them to the world, nor to anybody else.

"Now we are not giving this to the world; we are giving it to the Latter-day Saints.

"These amounts which I have read, I think it may be proper to state here, are the entire tithing of all the Church in all the world for the year 1914. Now when you come to talk about the millions and millions of dollars of tithing paid by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints it is simmered down to $1,887,920 for the year 1914, and that was an average year.

"I may be pardoned, perhaps, if I say here for the benefit of any who do not know the facts, that the law of tithing is a voluntary law; that is, it imposes only a voluntary duty upon the people. No man, no man's standing as a member in the Church, nor any woman's standing, for that matter, any person as a member of the Church, is jeopardized because they do not pay their tithing, because they do not observe the laws of God. There are a good many of us that do not observe all the laws, and it is a good thing that the Lord does not execute justice and judgment upon a great many of us.

"The expenses of the general authorities and the maintenance of the First Presidency are paid out of the revenue derived from investments, and not out of the tithes of the Church. These investments, as a rule, consist of contributions of stocks of various kinds to the Church, on tithing, which have been held by the Church, and the dividends that we derive from these stocks and from these investments, are for the benefit of the people in every instance. For the Church has never made an investment that was not for the object of benefiting the whole people as far as possible, fostering industries, fostering the colonization of our country, fostering and aiding the settlers of our country, of our state and of our adjoining states as far as we possibly can, by assisting them with means to help them lay the foundation of prosperity for themselves.

"In addition to the amount paid out of the tithes to the poor, $116,238, there has been collected and paid to the poor by the Relief Society, $74,290. Paid to the poor by the bishops from the fast offerings and other ward charities and funds, $76,000, making a total paid to the poor for 1914 of $266,528.

"It just occurs to me that we are talking to you on the Sabbath day, and some people perhaps may feel that it is somewhat out of place for us to talk about money, about tithing or about the expenditure of means, and the use that is made of it on the Sabbath day, but the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. God made the Sabbath, or designated the Sabbath day, for a day of rest, a day of worship, a day for goodly deeds and for humility and penitence and the worship of the Almighty in spirit and in truth.

"There has been collected for the war sufferers the sum of $33,000, which is being expended under the direction of President Hyrum M. Smith of the European mission, and this was done on one day practically, a day set apart for general contributions for the benefit of the sufferers in consequence of the war. I have a list of the names of all the stakes of Zion and the wards which contributed these means, and it was all contributed and handled and sent to the sufferers to be distributed equally and impartially to Latter-day Saints, mind you, first—I want to tell you that, we will be honest with you. We feel that it is the first duty of Latter-day Saints to take care of themselves and their poor; and then if we can extend it to others, and as wide and as far as we can extend charity and assistance to others that are not members of the Church, we feel that it is our duty to do it; but first to look after the members of our household. The man that will not provide for his own house, as one of old has said, is worse than an infidel.

"So we make no apologies for saying we have collected these means for the suffering Latter-day Saints that are afflicted because of the war in Germany and in Austria and in Italy and in Switzerland and Holland and in England, and anywhere else where they are suffering in consequence of it, and all collected on one Sabbath

day. And it did not cost the fund one penny, not even a postage stamp—maybe you would like to know that; no paid agencies, no paid collectors, no one has received a nickel from the funds that were contributed for the assistance of the afflicted and the suffering. It was done through the channels of the holy Priesthood, through the organization of the Church in the regular way, and it has cost nobody anything.

"I received the other day, we did, the Presidency, the following cable message from the president of the Swiss and German mission:

"'Two thousand dollar relief fund thankfully received. Express gratitude to God's people. Condition satisfactory. Valentine, president Swiss and German mission.'

"We have received also a number of returns from President Hyrum M. Smith, but in volume, and it has not been condensed so that they could be presented here.

"Now we have a few more figures or statements, at least, that I desire to read. Our records show that 73 per cent. of all Latter-day Saints' families residing in all the stakes of Zion own their own homes—73 per cent. of them; I am sorry that this is not as great as it has been in the past, but we have become more numerous than we were when 95 per cent. of the people of the Church owned their own little homes and owed nothing to anybody for them.

"Let me inject here just one more admonition—or once more my standing admonition—to the Latter-day Saints. My brethren, see to it that you do not put a mortgage upon the roof that covers the heads of your wives and your children. Do not do it. Do not do it. Do not plaster your farms with mortgages, because it is from your farms that you reap your food and the means to provide your raiment and your other necessaries of life. Keep your possessions free from debt.

"Get out of debt as fast as you can and keep out of debt; for that is the way in which the promise of God will be fulfilled to His Church, that they will become the richest of all people in the world. They will become the richest of all people, but not while you mortgage your homes and your farms or run into debt beyond your ability to meet your obligations, and thus perhaps be dishonored and your name and credit dishonored because you overreached yourselves.

"'Never reach farther than you can gather' is a good motto.

"The birth rate of the Church for the year 1914 is 395 to the thousand.

"The death rate for the year 1914 is 8.3 to the thousand.

"The marriage rate for the year 1914 is 17 to the thousand.

"During the year there were 14,717 children blessed in the Church.

"There are 1,316 elders and 115 women laboring in the missions as missionaries.

"Of the membership of the Church residing in the stakes of Zion 319,000 were born in the United States.

"There has been a net increase in the membership of the Church in the stakes of Zion from the year 1901 to the year 1914 of 129,493 souls.

"There are now 739 organized wards and 33 independent branches.

"There are 68 organized stakes of Zion and 21 missions.

"During the year 1914, 21 new wards have been organized and 2 stakes of Zion, and in each of the newly organized wards we have been called upon to assist them to help build their meeting houses.

"And so the work goes on. I read the figures of the hundreds of thousands that we are appropriating for the assistance in the erection of meeting houses, tabernacles and amusement places for the youth of Zion, to keep them under proper restraint and control.

"The work in the temples has been the largest on record. There have been performed in the temples during the past year 166,909 baptisms—so that we are increasing really the membership of the Church very, very much faster in the spirit world than we are on earth—baptisms for the dead.

"Endowments for the living and the dead, 72,952.

"Altogether 326,264 ordinances have been performed in the four temples. This is a very considerable increase over any previous year.

"The ward teaching has been given considerable attention by the stake and ward officers, with the result that in some of the stakes of Zion the work has been so well developed that 96 per cent. of all the families in the stakes are visited by the ward teacher each month.

* * *

"God bless you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Baptisms.—A baptismal service was held at the Public Baths, Carlisle (Newcastle conference), on April 17th, 1915, when two souls were received into the Church, Elders David E. Roberts and Willis S. Thomas officiating.

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